

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

CARL P. JACOBS and JANET JACOBS, :

Plaintiffs,

v. : Civil Action No. 06-487-***

ERIKA M. SASEK and KIRK SASEK, :

Defendants. :

FINAL PRETRIAL and TRIAL MANAGEMENT ORDER

Pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 16 and unless otherwise ordered by the court,

IT IS ORDERED as follows:

1. Pretrial Conference and Pretrial Order: The Scheduling Order in this case and Local Rule 16 establish the procedures for preparing, exchanging and filing a draft of the proposed pretrial order. The final pretrial order operates as the blueprint for trial. Therefore, the court will use the final pretrial order in ruling on objections during trial, including objections to arguments and to the relevance and admissibility of evidence.

a. General Information: Names, addresses and telephone numbers of counsel for the parties, a brief description of the nature of the action involved (e.g., breach of contract, patent, personal injury) and the basis for the jurisdiction of the court, including cites of the applicable statutes are to be included in the draft order.

b. Uncontested Facts: Included in the draft order is a comprehensive stipulation or statement of all uncontested facts, which will be part of the evidentiary record of the case and may be read to the jury by the court or any party. Counsel for

plaintiff and for any counter-, cross- or third-party complainant is responsible for preparing the initial draft of the proposed stipulation or statement dealing with the allegations in their respective party's complaint. If the admissibility of any uncontested fact is challenged, the party objecting and the basis for the objection must be provided.

c. Issues of Fact and Expected Proof: Under Local Rules

16.4(d)(4),(8),(9) and (10), each party is required to identify the facts in issue, with a brief statement of what it intends to prove in support of its claims and defenses. These summaries should be sufficient to identify for the court the essential facts in issue and to fairly notify the other parties of what counsel expects to prove at trial. The court will use these sections in the final pretrial order and the jury instructions in ruling on relevance and admissibility of evidence. Where a party has served contention interrogatories, the responding party will not be allowed to include in the final pretrial order new issues or new facts not fairly disclosed in the answers to those interrogatories.

d. Issues of Law: Pursuant to Local Rule 16.4(d)(5), the court will preclude a party from seeking relief based on claims and defenses not described in the draft pretrial order. Counsel will stipulate to those claims and defenses waived by any party.

e. Witnesses: In addition to the requirements under Local Rule 16.4(d)(7), during the pretrial conference, the court will review with counsel the trial schedule for witnesses, any request to sequester witnesses, whether or not certain witnesses may need to be subpoenaed and the expected scope of direct and cross examination for witnesses who may be called by more than one party. Any witness not

listed will be precluded from testifying absent good cause shown, except that each party may reserve the right to call rebuttal witnesses who are not presently identifiable, as may be necessary.

Any objection to a witness will briefly state the basis for the objection and where applicable, include the supporting Fed. R. Evid.

f. Opinion Testimony: Included in the draft order, in addition to the provisions of Local Rule 16.4.(d)(7) and 1(e) of this Order, will be a brief summary of the opinions to be offered by any witness to be called to offer opinion testimony. Regarding experts, either a stipulation or statement setting forth the expert's qualifications in a form that can be read to the jury will also be included. The court prefers to limit the number of expert witnesses to one expert for each subject matter for each party, unless good cause is shown.

g. Exhibits: Except for rebuttal exhibits and in addition to the provisions of Local Rule 16.4(d)(6), the list of exhibits to be offered by each party at trial will contain the identification number of the exhibit. Included in each party's exhibit list will be a description of the demonstrative evidence or experiments that the party intends to use at trial. Exhibits not listed will not be admitted unless good cause is shown. Cumulative documents will be omitted. Duplicate exhibits will not be scheduled by different parties, but may be offered as joint exhibits. All parties will stipulate to the authenticity of the exhibits, or shall identify those that have not been stipulated to with the specific reasons for the failure to so stipulate. Copies of exhibits shall be made available to opposing counsel prior to the pretrial conference.

Any objection to and any response to an objection to an exhibit will provide the

identification number and otherwise be consistent with the requirements of Local Rule 16.4(d)(6). Exhibits not objected to will be received into evidence by the operation of this order and the final pretrial order without the need for additional foundation testimony.

On or before the first day of trial, counsel will deliver to the Courtroom Deputy a completed AO Form 187 exhibit list for each party, and shall also deliver to chambers a bench book of exhibits. In non-jury trials, two bench books of exhibits will be delivered to chambers and counsel are encouraged for such trials to mark their exhibits in chronological order.

h. Depositions: Counsel should confer prior to the pretrial conference to determine which testimony will be offered by deposition (including video tape depositions), to agree on the designation of those portions of the depositions to be offered into evidence, and to identify objections. If there are objections that will need to be resolved, counsel will submit the transcript and a summary of the objections with the draft pretrial order. Any video tape deposition to which an objection is raised will be made available to the court to review during the pretrial conference. Upon a showing of good cause, objections not previously raised to a video tape deposition will be handled pursuant to Local Rule 30.4(e). Video tape depositions will otherwise be handled at trial consistent with Local Rule 30.4(d). All irrelevant and redundant material including colloquy between counsel will be eliminated when the deposition is read or viewed at trial.

i. Motions in Limine: Motions in limine **shall not** be separately filed. Any in limine requests, as limited by the Scheduling Order, shall be set forth, with citations

to authorities and brief argument, in the Proposed Pretrial Order. Briefing shall not be submitted with in limine requests, unless otherwise permitted by the Court. If the motion relates to the admissibility of documents, copies of those documents should be provided to the court during the pretrial conference.

j. Voir Dire [for jury trials]: In addition to Local Rule 47.1, the scheduling order in this case provides for the filing time and obligations of counsel regarding voir dire. The court will not ask voir dire that is not filed pursuant to that order. In preparing and filing proposed voir dire, no more than ten questions, including those jointly submitted, for each party will be considered during the pretrial conference. The court will ask questions as contained on the Court's website. Those questions are not included in the number limitation herein.

k. Jury Instructions [for jury trials]: In addition to Local Rule 51.1, the Scheduling Order in this case provides for the filing time and obligations of counsel regarding the jury instructions. All instructions and objections will include supporting authorities. Such supporting authorities may include appropriate and applicable standardized jury instructions from other jurisdictions and the Superior Court of the State of Delaware. The failure to comply with this Order, Local Rule 51.1 and the Scheduling Order in this case relating to this rule will be treated by the court as a waiver of a claim for relief.

Any requests for supplemental instructions during trial or at the close of evidence will be considered by the court on the basis of whether the proposed instruction could have been reasonably anticipated at the time of the final pretrial conference.

l. Verdict Form [for jury trials]: In addition to Local Rule 51.1(c), the

Scheduling Order in this case provides for the filing time and obligations of counsel regarding the verdict form or special interrogatories.

In addition to providing a courtesy copy to Chambers of the proposed joint jury instructions, voir dire and verdict form or special interrogatories, plaintiff's counsel will provide the court on diskette these documents.

Counsel for plaintiff will prepare unmarked original sets of joint jury instructions and verdict forms or special interrogatories to the court for use by the jury during deliberations.

m. Damages: In addition to the requirements under Local Rule 16.4(d)(8), an itemized statement of special damages will be included in the draft pretrial order.

n. Non-Jury trial: If the parties desire a detailed opinion from the court post-trial, counsel should include a proposed post-trial briefing schedule in the draft pretrial order. In their initial briefs, each party shall provide proposed *Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law*. These shall be separately stated in numbered paragraphs. The Findings of Fact should contain a detailed listing of the relevant material facts the party intends to prove in a simple narrative form. The Conclusions of Law should contain concise statements, with supporting citations, of the legal theories propounded by counsel.

o. Settlement status: In addition to the provisions of Local Rule 16.4(d)(12), counsel should be prepared to discuss the status of settlement negotiations and whether court assistance in the settlement efforts would be helpful.

p. Other: Included in the draft pretrial order will be a statement that each party has completed discovery, including the depositions of expert witnesses, unless the court has previously ordered otherwise. In the rare event that discovery has not

been completed, counsel shall identify the discovery remaining and the date on which it will be completed in the draft pretrial order.

2. Trial Procedures

a. Trial Schedule: Unless otherwise ordered by the court, the usual trial schedule will be from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 - 5:00 p.m. The first day will be from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30-5:00 pm. The Courtroom Deputy will keep a running total of trial time used by counsel. Opening and closing statements will be included in the total. For depositions, time will be allocated according to the lines of testimony designed by each party. Counsel should confirm with the Courtroom Deputy the allotted time used by counsel at the close of each trial day and immediately advise the Court of any discrepancies.

b. Jury Note Taking and Notebooks: For a jury trial, the court will provide jurors with pens/pencils and pads. Counsel are encouraged to prepared notebooks of key exhibits for each juror. Unless otherwise agreed to by counsel or ordered by the court, no documents should be included in a notebook provided to a juror until that document has been admitted into evidence.

c. Preliminary Instructions: For a jury trial, the court will give preliminary jury instructions prior to the opening statements.

d. Use of Lectern: The court prefers counsel to present the opening statement, conduct examination of witnesses and make the closing argument from the lectern.

e. Opening Statement: Opening statement is not an argument. Counsel may object to an improper opening statement.

f. Order of Proof: The presentation of evidence will usually follow the

pleadings and burden of proof. This means that typically plaintiff will go first on those issues for which it has the burden. Defendant will answer those issues and open as to the issues for which it has the burden. Plaintiff may reply on its claim for relief and answer defendant's claims. Defendant may then reply regarding its claims. The reply by either party will be limited to matters it could not have anticipated at the time it opened.

g. Examination of Witnesses: Examination of witnesses will usually be limited to direct, cross examination and re-direct. Cross examination will be limited to matters covered in direct and impeachment. Re-direct will be limited to matters covered in cross examination.

h. Objections and Side Bar: Counsel should expect that there will not be side bar conferences during trial. In a jury trial, to the extent that counsel can anticipate an evidentiary objection, the matter should be brought to the court's attention during a break **before** the evidence is offered. In arguing that evidence is admissible, counsel should be prepared to identify: 1) the matter in issue, 2) the fact of consequence to the determination of that issue, and 3) how this evidence affects the probability of that fact. During trial, counsel should object by standing, announcing the objection and identifying the rule of evidence in support of the objection. Arguing objections in front of the jury or the witness will be avoided.

i. Transition Statements: Counsel are encouraged to make brief transitional statements, in the nature of an opening statement, to the jury or the court in a bench trial.

j. Opinion Testimony: Counsel will not ask the court in the presence of the

jury to a finding of whether a witness qualified to offer an opinion.

k. Demonstrative Exhibits: Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, demonstrative exhibits are marked for identification but not admitted into evidence.

l. Testimony by Deposition: Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, designated portions of deposition transcripts are read in order from the beginning of the transcript to the end, except that in a bench trial, such transcripts need not be read to the court.

m. Instructions: The court will read the final instructions to the jury before closing argument.

n. Closing Arguments: During closing arguments, counsel may prepare and submit to the jury examples of how the verdict form should be filled out.

/s/ Mary Pat Thyng
United States Magistrate Judge

Dated: 3/6/07